SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 1. Total Pages \_\_ 3. Number 4. Rev. No. Feature Test of Air Conveyance System 0 WHC-SD-ER-TRP-001 5. Key Words 6. Author SST J. F. Thompson Tank Waste Name (Type or Print) Air Conveyance Waste Retrieval Organization/Charge Co. 7. Abstract The air conveyance feature resoluted in the FMEF, Building 427/400 Area was completed on August 22, 1990. The purpose of this test was to determine the applicability and efficiency of air conveyance as a method for transporting waste dislodged from the single-shell tanks. The performance of the air conveyance system with simulated sludge was mixed. The system had difficulty in moving the waste into the feed nozzle. The sludge simulant tended to stick on the hose walls and accumulate in the horizontal hose runs, however, with the addition of water injected into the feed nozzle the major problems were greatly minimized. Future testing is required to evaluate to what extent these modifications will optimize system performance. With modifications to the air conveyance system is still expected to be the leading candidate for waste transport. PURPOSE AND USE OF DOCUMENT - This document was prepared for use within E. J. Shen the U.S. Department of Energy and its contractors. It is to be used only to Authorized Manager's Name (Type or Print) perform, direct) or integrate work under U.S. Dapartment of Energy contracts. This document is not appropriate to the transfer of the transf Authorized Manager's Signature PATENT STATUS - This Specify Distribution Limit <u>External</u> patent clearance, is have wanted confidence solely for use in performance of work upder contracts with the U.S. Department of Energy. This document is 11. **RELEASE STAMP** not to be published nor its contents otherwise disseminated or used for purposes other than specified above before patent approval for such release or use has been secured, upon request, from the U.S. Department of Energy, Patent Attorney, Richland Operations Office, Richland, WA. DISCLAIMER - This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an RELEASED agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, nor any of their contractors, DISTRIBUTION LIMITS subcontractors or their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or any third party's use or the results of such use of any information, apparatus, INTERNAL ONLY product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does SPONSOR LIMITED not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof or its contractors or subcontractors. The views and opinions of authors expressed

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9. Impact Level 4

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EXTERNAL OCT 26 1990

#### FEATURE TEST OF AIR CONVEYANCE SYSTEM

J. F. THOMPSON

SEPTEMBER 14, 1990

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Feature testing of an air conveyance system was one of several tests called for by the Single-Shell Tank Waste Feature Test Plan (Thompson, 1990). The feature testing was conducted August 15-22, 1990, at the Fuels and Materials Examination Facility, 427 Building, in the 400 Area of the Hanford Site. Remote Systems Engineering conducted the testing with the assistance of the Facilities Operations Group.

The objective of this test was to evaluate an "off-the-shelf" air conveyance system as a method of waste retrieval. The equipment will test an air conveyance system's ability to lift a sludge simulant up to a 60 ft elevation difference, and determine the plugging characteristic of the simulant in the hose runs. The testing program will not optimize any parameters, but will evaluate the technologies abilities to convey sludge simulant.

#### 2.0 DESCRIPTION TEST

The unit tested is a production model portable pneumatic conveying system with the following specifications:

Brand Name: Hi-Vac Corporation<sup>1</sup>

Model: 240, LP Hi-Vac

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Approx. Dim's: <u>Length</u> <u>Width</u> <u>Height</u>

6 ft.- 2 in. 6 ft.- 2 in. 9 ft.- 1 in. (1880 mm) (2768 mm)

Approx. Weight: 6,100 lbs. (2766 Kg.)

Hopper Capacity: 1 - 1/2 cu. yd.

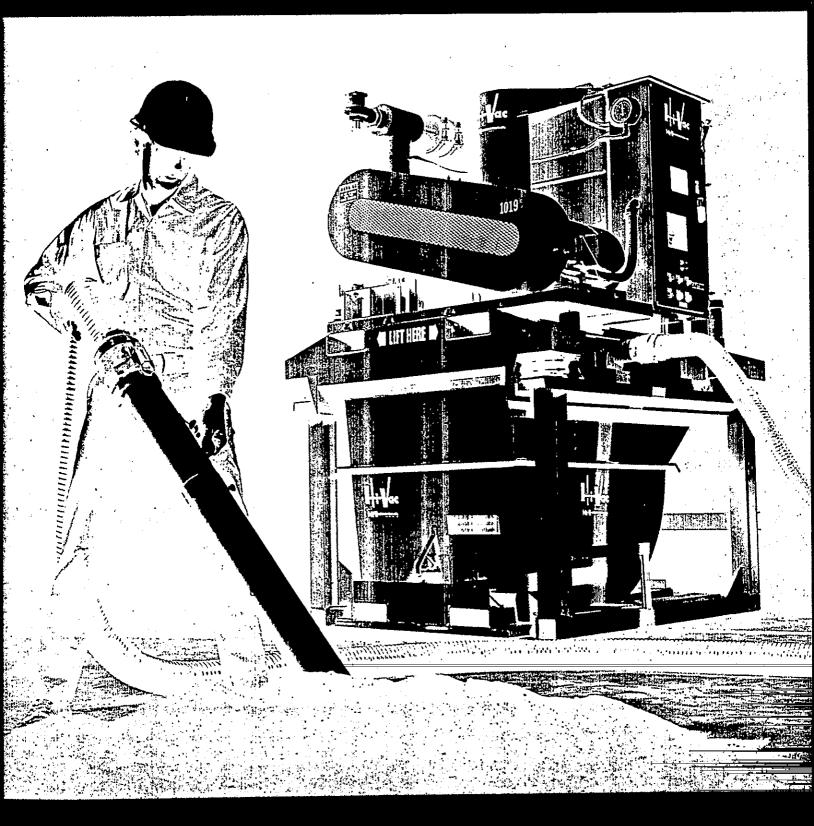
Rated Vacuum Pressure: 18 in. Hg

Air Flow: 812 CFM at 4 - 1/2 in. Hg (static) 646 CFM at 18 in. Hg (Theatrical)

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** The model 240 is an efficient, heavy duty, dust free industrial pneumatic conveying system designed for in-plant use and consists of a power module, material collection hopper, filtration system and propulsion system (see Figure 1).

<sup>1.</sup> Trademark of the Hi-Vac Corporation, Marietta, Ohio

Figure 1. Typical Hi-Vac Vacuum Loader System.



#### 3.0 TEST METHOD AND TEST EQUIPMENT

The testing program was divided into three sections, or tests, using a sludge simulant with a density of  $100 \, lbs/ft^3$  (Wong, 1990). The composition of the simulant is as follows:

- 13.5 weight percent bentonite clay (200 mesh)
- 32.4 weight percent barium sulfate (400 mesh)
- 54.1 weight percent water

The bulk density is 1.6 g/ml and the viscosity is 1.7 x  $10^6$  cp.

#### 3.1 TEST #1

This test was designed to convey the simulant 42.5 vertical ft. The vacuum loader was located at the upper elevation and the simulant at the floor level. The hose was straight with little or no bends. Conveying measurements were determined by drum volume and observation.

#### 3.2 TEST #2

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This test was designed to convey the simulant 60 vertical ft and 40 horizontal ft. The vacuum loader was located at the upper elevation with the simulant at the floor level. The first section of hose ran 60 ft vertical with no bends. The second section of hose ran horizontal 40 ft with a 180° return. the horizontal hose run was located at the upper elevation. Conveying measurements were determined by drum volume and observation.

#### 3.3 TEST #3

This test was divided into two parts test 3A and 3B.

#### 3.3.1 Test #3A

This test was designed to convey simulant in the horizontal plane which was determined to be the worst case. The vacuum loader and the hose run of 50 ft were on the same elevation with numerous bends and loops in the hose.

#### 3.3.2 Test #3B

This test was designed essentially the same as test 3A with an additional 50 ft of hose with more loops and bends.

#### 4.0 TEST RESULTS

#### 4.1 TEST #1

Test conditions: Elevation = 42 ft.-6 in., Hose length = 50 ft. The test setup was with an elevation difference of 42 ft-6 in. The air conveyance equipment was placed at the top elevation with the simulant at the lower elevation. The conveyance hose was 50 ft long with a 5 ft pick-up nozzle attached.

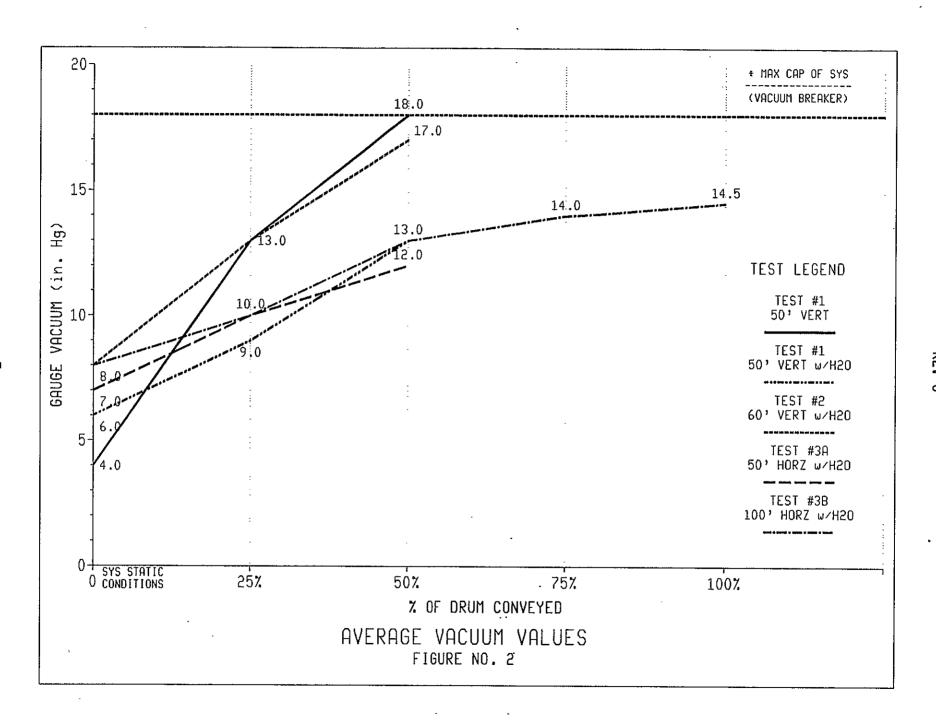
The feed nozzle that was supplied by the factory with this equipment had an air-bleed adjustment. The factory representative's instructions were to start with a wide open adjustment and then close down the air bleed until you obtained the optimum conveying rate with the equipment. He made these recommendations because of the unknown conveying characteristics of the simulant. With the air bleed wide open, the simulant conveyed in chunks or slugs. The feed nozzle had to push into the simulant to pack a slug into the pick-up, it was then necessary to pull the feed nozzle out of the simulant to allow the slug to be conveyed. This process was continued until the proper air bleed adjustment was determined. This required approximately 1/4 drum to be conveyed.

The hose was inspected and found to have approximately 1/4 in. of material coating the hose walls. It was necessary to convey water intermittently to keep the material from building up on the hose walls during the air-bleed adjustment phase. When approximately 2/3 of the drum had been conveyed the hose plugged and the vacuum breaker on the equipment opened indicating that the system had reached 18 in. Hg vacuum. The system was shut down and the hose was unplugged using a long pipe to restore an air flow.

The equipment was restarted and water was conveyed to completely clear the hose. At this point a decision was made to install a water injection system to the feed nozzle. This system was field fabricated using a 5/8 in. garden hose (approximate system pressure 65 psi) feeding a 1/4 in. ball valve and 4 ft of 1.4 in. nylon tubing, this was feed into a "U" shaped tube that was fitted into the inlet of the feed nozzle.

The final 1/3 drum was conveyed without any problems. The water injection system did not improve the feed rate but did dramatically reduce the amount of material stuck on the hose walls. See Figure 2.

NOTE: At the end of test 1 there was a malfunction of the vacuum loader equipment that required a call to the factory for assistance. The problem was discussed with the factory and a plan to fix the equipment was agreed upon. The problem was with a defective filter pressure differential switch that would not allow the blower to run. The factory directed solution was to bypass the faulty switch. The equipment was restarted and functioned normally.



#### 4.2 TEST #2

Test conditions: Elevation = 60 ft - 0 in., Hose length = 100 ft. Water injection system was utilized. The test setup was as follows, the simulant was located at the lower elevation and the vacuum loader located at the upper elevation. The first section of hose went 60 ft vertically. Then the hose was laid over a railing with a 180° bend and dropped 3 ft to the floor. The hose continued horizontally on the floor for 20 ft with a 180° return and ran an additional 20 ft back to the equipment where it made an 90° turn up for an additional 5 ft of elevation to the suction connection of the vacuum loader.

The simulant conveyed as before in large chunks. One half of a drum was conveyed in a 20 minute period. Much of the conveying time was spent maneuvering the very heavy hose. During conveyance the vacuum climbed steadily, see Figure 1. This was an indication that the hose was plugging. When the vacuum reached 17 in. Hg the conveying was terminated. It was determined that if conveying were continued that the hose would have plugged in a very short time. Upon inspection of the hoses it appears that the material easily made the 60 ft elevation with minimal build-up on the hose walls. At the transition from vertical to horizontal the hose was very heavy indicating that there was a lot of material held up at this location. Visual inspection of the hose and hopper confirmed that only approximately 2 of the 15 gallons of material conveyed reached the hopper and the remainder was held up in the 40 ft horizontal section of the hose. It was surmised that the system air velocity for this simulant was insufficient or that the hose length/configuration exceeded the system capacity. Samples were collected from the hose and hopper (see Figure 2).

NOTE: At this point the water injection system was evaluated and it was decided that more water volume was required. The system was modified by changing the 1/4 in. valve to a 3/8 in. size and also changing the 1/4 in. tubing to 3/8 in. tubing. This results in an approximate 2x increase in water volume. Test #2 was not repeated with the new water injection system, but the expected results were obtained in test #3.

#### 4.3 RESULTS OF TEST 3

#### 4.3.1 Test #3A

Test conditions: 50 feet of horizontal hose with the 3/8 in. Water injection system utilized. The test setup was configured with one 360° loop and three 90° bends in the hose. Again the conveying rate was not increased but the rate at which the slugs moved through the hose was improved. Half of a drum was conveyed, at this point the system was secured and the hose inspected. There was virtually no material hold up on the walls of the hose. The maximum observed vacuum reading was 12 in. Hg, during this test. See Figure 2.

#### 4.3.2 Test #3B

Test conditions: 100 ft of horizontal hose with the 3/8 in. water injection system utilized. The test setup was configured with three 360° loops and three 90° bends in the hose. The conveying rate was the same as that of test 3A. One and one half drums of simulant were conveyed with virtually no material hold up on the hose walls. The hose condition appeared the same as in test 3A. The maximum observed vacuum reading was 14/14.5 in. Hg during the test. See Figure 2.

#### 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The air conveyance system proved to be an effective method for retrieving simulated sludge. The system that was tested was somewhat small in size, (capacity), for some of the tests performed, but showed that the technology is a sound option for waste retrieval with some modifications to the basic design. No conveying rates were established due to the nature of the sludge, and to some extent, the heavy hose and operator fatigue during the test program.

It became obvious during testing that a water injection system is imperative to prevent hose plugging while conveying undiluted sludge. The amount of water required and at what point it is injected into the system is a matter of conjecture. It is Remote Systems Engineering's recommendation that a system utilizing a water injection device at the feed nozzle and additional injection units placed along the hose runs will be necessary. Future testing of a system with a larger capacity and water injection should be tested. Also, testing of a device that will locally dislodge (fluidize) the sludge to facilitate its pick-up by the air conveyance system should be developed.

#### 6.0 DISPOSITION OF THE TEST ITEM

The model 240 Hi-Vac equipment was a rental unit and was returned to the vendor upon completion of the testing program. The hose and miscellaneous fittings were excessed at the completion of the testing program. The simulant was returned to the Chemical Engineering Lab, Bldg 2703-E/200E Area of the Hanford Site for storage/disposal.

#### 7.0 REFERENCES

- Thompson, J. F., 1990, Single Shell Tank Waste Retrieval, WHC-SD-ER-TP-002, Westinghouse Hanford Company, Richland, Washington.
- Wong, J. J., 1990, Recipe Document for SST Waste Simulants, WHC-SD-ER-TI-002, Westinghouse Hanford Company, Richland, Washington.

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APPENDIX A

**VENDOR INFORMATION** 

These charts will help you determine how much Hi-Vac horsepower you'll need to pick up and convey your material over a given distance, at a given rate.

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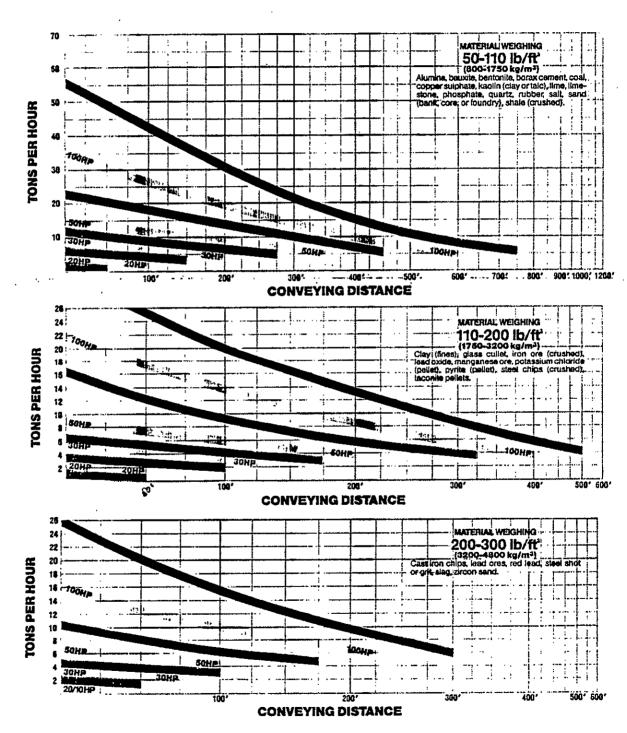
\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

- Use the chart which corresponds to the weight of the material you'll be
- the weight of the material you'll be vacuuming.

  2. Along the bottom of the chart, find your intended conveying distance.

  3. Read up and across to find the tonper-hour capacities of various size Hi-Vacs.

Caution: These figures are based on a maximum particle size of 1/2" (13 mm) and will vary depending on flow-ability, number of bends, vertical ele-vation, hose resistance, coupling loss, etc. Conveying rates shown are for continuous operation.



# power read specifications

	10 HP	20 HP	25 HP	30 HP	40 HP	50 HP	75 HP	100 HP	150 HP	200 H:
300 Series	MODEL 310 Horsepower 10 HP (7.5 kW) Weight 1.750 to (795 kg) Ale/cloth ratio 2.2 to 1*	MODEL 320 Horsepower 20 HP (15 kW) Weight 2,150 ib 1975 kg) Air/cloth retio 4,2 to 1*					1			
200 LC Series		MODEL 220 LC Horsepower 20 HP (15 kW) Weight 2,870 lb (1 300 kg) Ale/cloth ratio 2,1 to 1*		MODEL 230 LC Horsepower 30 HP (22.5 kW) Weeler 3,750nt 3,750nt (1 700 kg) Air/cloth retto 4.3 to 1*	MODEL 240 LC Horsepower 40 HP (30 kW) Weight 3,950 lb (1 790 kg) Alr/cloth ratio 5,1 to 1*					
200 Series			MODEL 225 Horsepower 25 HP (18.5 kW) Weight 3,000 ib (1 350 kg) Alr/cloth ratio 1.7 to 1*	MODEL 230 Horsepower 30 HP (22.5 kW) Weight 4,100 lb (1 850 kg) Akr/cloth ratio 2.2 to 1*	MODEL 240 Horsepower 40 HP (30 kW) Weight 4,300 lb (1 950 kg) Ale/cloth ratio 2.7 to 1"	MODEL 250 Horsepower 50 HP (37.5 kW) Weight 4.450 lb (2.020 kg) Air/cloth catio 3.6 to 1°			About a special specia	
400 Series						MODEL 450 Horsepower 50 HP (37.5 kW) Weight 4,650 lb (2 110 kg) Air/cloth ratio 2.9 to 1*	MODEL 475  Horrespower 75 HP (56 kW) Weight 5,200 ib (2 360 kg) Alr/cloth ratio 4,5 to 1*			
500 Series		MODEL 520 Horsepower 20 HP (15 kW) Weight 4.990 tb (2 265 kg) Alr/cloth ratio 2.3 to 1*			MODEL 540 Horspower 40 HP (30 kW) Weight 4,990 lb (2 265 kg) Alr/cloth ratio 4.1 to 1*	MODEL 550 Horsepower 50 HP (37.5 kW) Weight 8,300 lb (3 765 kg) Alr/cloth ratio 5.5 to 1*	MODEL <b>575</b> Horsepower 75 HP (66 kW) Weight 8,300 lb (3 765 kg) Akr/cloth ratio 4,5 to 1*			
2000 Series							MODEL 2075  Horsepower 75 HP (56 kW) Weight 8,000 lb (3 630 kg) Air/cloth ratio 2.8 to 1*	MODEL 2100 Horsepower 100 HP (74.5 kW) Welght 8,000 lb (3 630 kg) Air/cloth rabo 3.9 to 1*	MODEL. 2150  Horsepower 150 HP (112 kW) Weight 9,500 ib (4 310 kg) Air/cloth ratio 5,8 to 1*	MODEL 2200 Horsepower 200 HP (149 kW Weight 12,000 lb (5 445 kg) Air/cloth ratio 5.8 to 1"

\*At rated vacuum

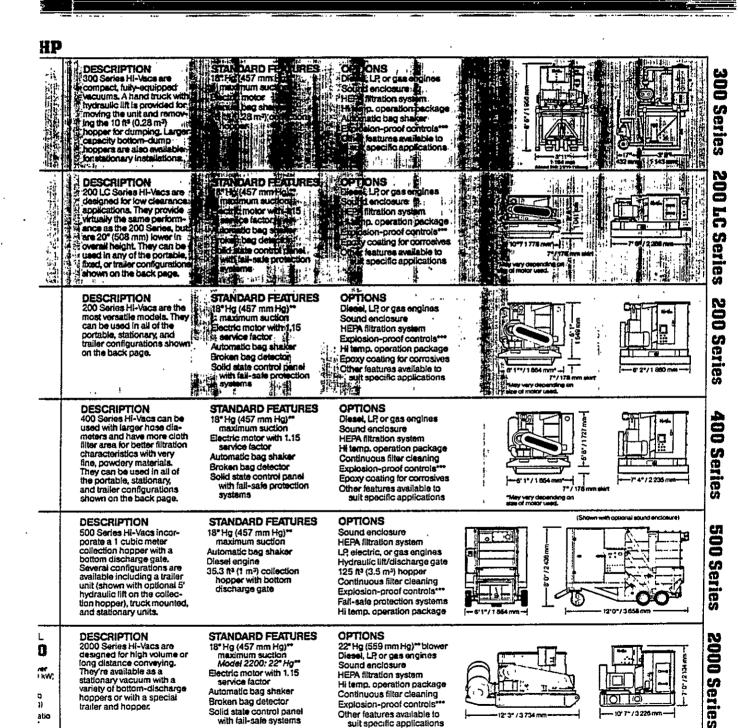
Use the "pickup capacity" charts on pages 2 and 3 to determine the horse-power required for your application. Then use this chart to select the proper Hi-Vac powerhead for the job.

- Find the required horsepower along the top of the chart.
   Read down to find which Hi-Vac mod-
- Read down to find which Hi-Vac models are available in that horsepower rating.
- rating.
  3. Read across for the specifications and dimensions of each model.

NOTE. Custom engineered Hi-Vac models are available. Please consult your NFE International Ltd. representative or the factory.

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Specifications subject to change without notice.



ım. \*\*At sea level

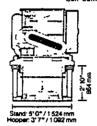
\*\*\*Not available on engine-drive HI-Vacs.

## hoppers and stands

Similar equipment is also availa for other Hi-Vac models. Please c sult your NFE International repres tative or the factory.

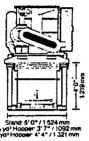
#### PORT LELE HE PERS

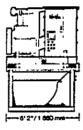
#### 1 Cubic Yard Hopper



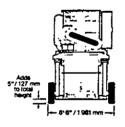


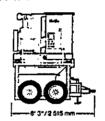
## 11/2 & 2 Cubic Yard Hoppers



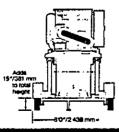


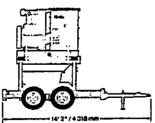
In-Plant Trailers





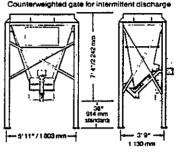
## Highway Trailer





#### STATION ARY HOPPERS

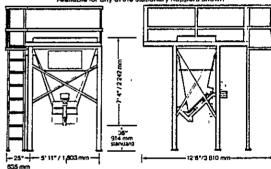
#### Bottom Discharge Hopper-



12 ft<sup>3</sup> hopper for 300 Series Discharge arrangement optional

#### Service Platform

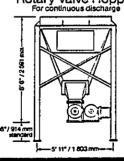
Available for any of the s

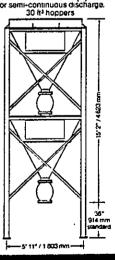


## Pinch Valve Hoppers For semi-continuous discharge. 30 ft hoppers

## \*Available in 50 ft\* (shown) or 30 ft<sup>2</sup> versions (1.4 or 0.85 m<sup>2</sup>). For 30 ft<sup>2</sup> hopper subtract 12° (305 mm) from total height.

## Rotary Valve Hopper\*





## Corporation

(MFE International LTD) 117 Industry Road, Marietta, OH 45750

Specifications subject to change without notice.

APPENDIX B

DATA SHEETS

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DATA SHEET TEST #1
(Without Water)

Page \_1\_ of \_1\_

TEST ENGINEERS: J. F. Thompson	DATE: 8/15/90	
D. T. Ruff	_	
SIMULANT VOLUME: 30 Gal	(PER BARREL)	
SIMULANT WEIGHT: 400	(PER BARREL)	
SIMULANT DENSITY: 1.6 g/mL (99.8 lbs/ft	<u>t<sup>3</sup>)</u>	
DESCRIPTION OF SIMULANT: The simulant ca	an best be described as a cohesiv	<u>e,</u>
yield pseudoplastic paste, and not a po	ourable slurry, light beige	
in color.		
STATIC CONDITION:		
VACUUM (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	<u>4 in. Hg</u>	
SCFM THROUGHPUT (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	812 SCFM (static)	
OBSERVATIONS IN STATIC CONDITION: Elevat	tion = 42 ft-6 in.,	
Hose Length = 50 ft. The simulant is 1	located at the O ft-O in.	
location with the vacuum loader located		
This is for vertical conveyance.		

DATA SHEET TEST #1, CONT'D (With Water)

17

Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>

TEST ENGINEERS: J. F. Thompson	DATE: 8/17/90
D. T. Ruff	
SIMULANT VOLUME: 30 Gal	(PER_BARREL)
SIMULANT WEIGHT: 400	(PER BARREL)
SIMULANT DENSITY: 1.6 g/mL	<del> </del>
DESCRIPTION OF SIMULANT: The simulant can	best be described as a cohesive,
yield pseudoplastic paste, and not a pou	rable slurry, light beige in
color.	
STATIC CONDITION:	
VACUUM (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	4 in. Hg
SCFM THROUGHPUT (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	812 SCFM (static)
OBSERVATIONS IN STATIC CONDITION: Eleva	tion = 42 ft-6 in.,
Hose Length = 50 ft. The simulant is lo	ocated at the O ft-O in.
location with the vacuum loader located	at the 42 ft-6 in. location.
This is for vertical conveyance with a w	ater injection system in use.

## DATA SHEET TEST #2

Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>

TEST ENGINEERS: J. F. Thompson D	ATE: 8/21/90
D. T. Ruff	
SIMULANT VOLUME: 30 Gal	_(PER BARREL)
SIMULANT WEIGHT: 400	_(PER BARREL)
SIMULANT DENSITY: 1.6 g/mL	_
DESCRIPTION OF SIMULANT: The simulant can best	t be described as a cohesive,
yield pseudoplastic paste, and not a pourable	slurry, light beige
in color.	
STATIC CONDITION:	
VACUUM (MANUFACTURERS SPECS): 8 in.	Нд
SCFM THROUGHPUT (MANUFACTURERS SPECS): 812 SC	CFM (static)
OBSERVATIONS IN STATIC CONDITION: Elevation = 60	) ft-0 in.,
Hose Length = 100 ft. The water injection sys	stem is in use. The
simulant is located at the lower elevation and	d the vacuum loader is
located at the upper elevation. The hose run vertical, 40 ft horizontal with a 180° bend.	is as follows: 60 ft The horizontal hose run
is located at the upper elevation.	

DATA SHEET TEST #3B

Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>

TEST ENGINEERS: J. F. Thompson	DATE: 8/22/90
D. T. Ruff	
SIMULANT VOLUME: 30 Gal	(PER BARREL)
SIMULANT WEIGHT: 400	(PER BARREL)
SIMULANT DENSITY: 1.6 g/mL	
DESCRIPTION OF SIMULANT: The simulant ca	n best be described as a cohesive,
yield pseudoplastic paste, and not a po	ourable slurry, light beige
in color.	
STATIC CONDITION:	
VACUUM (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	8 in. Hg
SCFM THROUGHPUT (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	812 SCFM (static)
OBSERVATIONS IN STATIC CONDITION: <u>Elevat</u>	ion = 0 ft-0 in. (horizontal
test), Hose Length = 100 ft with three	360° loops and three 90° bends in
hose. The larger water injection syste	m is in use.
,	

DATA SHEET TEST #3A

1

Page \_1\_ of \_1\_

TEST ENGINEERS: J. F. Thompson	DATE: 8/22/90	
D. T. Ruff	_	
SIMULANT VOLUME: 30 Gal	(PER BARREL)	
SIMULANT WEIGHT: 400	(PER BARREL)	
SIMULANT DENSITY: 1.6 g/mL		
DESCRIPTION OF SIMULANT: The simulant ca	an best be described as a cohesi	ve,
yield pseudoplastic paste, and not a po	ourable slurry, light beige	
in color.		
STATIC CONDITION:		
VACUUM (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	7 in. Hg	
SCFM THROUGHPUT (MANUFACTURERS SPECS):	812 SCFM (static)	
OBSERVATIONS IN STATIC CONDITION: Elevat	tion = 0 ft-0 in. (horizontal	
test), Hose Length = 50 ft with one 360		
A larger water injection system is beir	ng utiliz <u>ed.</u>	